

In

# Celebration

of the life of

Mrs. Raphaelita Walker

December 12, 1926 - February 14, 2017





"Fear not, for I am with you;  
Be not dismayed, for I am your God.  
I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you,  
I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

Isaiah 41:10 (NKJV)



# *Service of Thanksgiving*

for the life of

**MRS. RAPHAELITA WALKER**

**Sunrise:** December 12, 1926 - **Sunset:** February 14, 2017

**REVIVALTIME TABERNACLE**

4340 Dufferin Street, Toronto, Ontario

**Saturday, March 4, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.**  
**(Viewing 10am - 11am)**

**OFFICIATING CLERGY:** Bishop Dr. Audley N. James  
Pastor Curt Erb  
Pastor Peter Williams  
Archbishop Deloris Seiveright

**ORGANIST:** Dr. Andrew James  
**CHOIR:** The RTC Sanctuary Choir



# *Memories of*

**MRS. RAPHAELITA WALKER**  
December 12, 1926 - February 14, 2017

Raphaelita Walker – taken from Jamaicans in Canada: when ackee meets codfish 2012 (pg.106)

Raphaelita Walker left her birthplace in Jamaica in 1957 with her husband, Gifford Walker, and migrated to England. Adjusting to the new environment, she used her home experiences to meet the challenges of the new culture and living conditions. She registered for courses in dress design and modeling and obtained employment in a boutique where she could use these skills to her advantage. Raphaelita found time to volunteer in the community, lending a helping hand to other newcomers in need and working with them to find solutions to these new situations.

In 1963, Raphaelita and Gifford left England for Canada to make a new life for themselves. She registered at George Brown College to develop the interests in fashion she had started. However, she became aware of the health needs in Toronto, her new home, and studied health care at Centennial College. In this new career she found that it appealed to her interest in looking after people and later in her special concern for the welfare of seniors. She worked in retirement and nursing homes, caring for seniors and was much loved by those in her care.

Soon after arriving here, Raphaelita resumed her volunteer activity. As well as helping individuals, she became involved in organizations, especially the Jamaican Canadian Association, which was in its early years. Soon she was joining with other women, helping to provide advice as well as some of the necessities of daily living to other newcomers.

As Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus for more than 30 years, Raphaelita and Gifford continue to be a positive influence for children and their parents. They were invited to assist in Christmas celebrations hosted by the GTA libraries for children.

In addition, Raphaelita is a lifetime member of PACE (Canada) – Project for Advancement of Childhood Education – that supports basic schools in Jamaica and Toronto. This organization consists of Canadians as well as those of Jamaican heritage, working together for the development of young children.

Raphaelita has received numerous awards but her greatest reward is the personal satisfaction which comes from helping others and remained active in both the Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA) and PACE until her passing.



## Awards, Honours and Citations

### Jamaican Canadian Association:

- Lifetime membership award
- Certificate of Appreciation
- The 50 Years of Service Award
- Volunteer Appreciation Award 2000

### Friend's of St. Thomas Health Care Organization

- Members Choice Award for outstanding & dedicated service.

### LEAF - Women's Legal Education and Action Fund

- Recognition Awards 2009 for the Persons Case (1929)

### P.A.C.E - Project for the Advancement of Childhood Education

- Founder's Award
- Pacesetter Award 2008

### African Canadian Achievement Award (ACAA)

- Excellence in Community Services

### The Gleaner Company and Jamaica National Oversees Ltd.

- Presents a Special Award 1994

### Certificates of Congratulations on celebrating 60 years of marriage from the following persons on August 3, 2015:

- Prime Minister of Canada
- Government of Ontario – Premier Kathleen Wynne
- Lieutenant Governor of Ontario – Elizabeth Dowdeswell
- Governor General of Canada – David Johnston



# Order of Service

MRS. RAPHAELITA WALKER  
December 12, 1926 - February 14, 2017

Procession and Opening Sentences: Bishop Dr. Audley N. James  
(Heritage Singers with Founder Grace Lyons - "Journey Man Jesus")

## ANTHEMS

### CANADIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM

O Canada! Our home and native land!  
True patriot love in all thy sons command.  
With glowing hearts, we see thee rise  
The true north strong and free,  
From far and wide, O Canada,  
We stand on guard for thee.  
God keep our land, glorious and free.  
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.  
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

### JAMAICAN NATIONAL ANTHEM

Eternal Father bless our land,  
Guard us with Thy Mighty Hand,  
Keep us free from evil powers,  
Be our light through countless hours,  
To our leaders, Great Defenders,  
Grant true wisdom from above,  
Justice, Truth be ours forever,  
Jamaica land we love.

Jamaica, Jamaica, Jamaica land we love.  
Teach us true respect for all,  
Stir response to duty's call,  
Strengthen us the weak to cherish,  
Give us vision lest we perish.  
Knowledge send us Heavenly Father,  
Grant true wisdom from above,  
Justice, Truth be ours forever,  
Jamaica land we love.  
Jamaica, Jamaica, Jamaica land we love.

## Welcome and Invocation:

Bishop Dr. Audley N. James

### Hymn: "How Great Thou Art"

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder,  
Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made;  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

#### Chorus:

Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.  
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!

When through the woods, and forest glades I wander,  
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees  
When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur  
And see the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.

#### Chorus

And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing;  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
He bled and died to take away my sin.

#### Chorus

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.  
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,  
And then proclaim, "My God, how great Thou art!"



# Order of Service

**MRS. RAPHAELITA WALKER**  
December 12, 1926 – February 14, 2017

Revaltimme Combined Choir

Tribute in Song:

Allison Taylor

Tributes:

Hon. Mitzie Hunter  
Adaoma Patterson  
Sandra Whiting

Hymn:

Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost but now I'm found.  
Was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear.  
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come.  
Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.

"Precious Lord"

Minister of Education Canada  
President Jamaican Canadian Association  
President of P.A.C.E (Canada)

"Amazing Grace"



The Lord has promised good to me  
His word my hope secure;  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.

When this flesh and heart shall fail,  
And mortal life shall cease;  
I shall possess within the veil,  
A joy of life and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years  
Bright shining as the sun  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we first begun.



## TRIBUTES:

**Mrs. Janice Miller**

High Commissioner for Jamaica to Canada

**The Honourable Desmond McKenzie, CD, MP.**

Minister of Local Government and Community Development - Jamaica

**Musical Selection:**

The RTC Sanctuary Choir

**Video presentation of founding JCA members**

**Hymn:**

**"It Is Well"**

When peace like a river, attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

**Chorus:**  
It is well, it is well,  
With my soul (It is well)  
It is, it is well, with my soul

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
Let this blest assurance control,  
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!  
My sin, not in part but the whole,  
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

For me, be it Christ, be it Chirst hence to live,  
If Jordan above e shall roll,  
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life  
Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.

But, Lord, 'tis for Thee, for Thy coming we wait,  
The sky, not the grave, is our goal;  
Oh, trump of the angell Oh, voice of the Lord!  
Blessed hope, blessed rest of my soul!

And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,  
Even so, it is well with my soul.

# Order of Service

MRS. RAPHAELITA WALKER  
December 12, 1926 – February 14, 2017



## 1<sup>st</sup> Scripture Reading

Psalm 91

read by Naadia White

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 15:51-58

read by Grace Grange-Johnson

## Musical Selection:

Minister Carlene Davis

## Message of Condolences The Most Hon. Edward Seaga, O.N. P.C., LL.D.

– Former Prime Minister of Jamaica (read by Lloyd Wilks, Consul General of Jamaica to Toronto)

## Family Tributes: Douglas & Dickens Family

(Nieces, Grand and Great-Grand Nieces & Nephews)

## Remembrance: Surtees Family

(Grand, Great-Grand and Great-Great Grand Children)

## Offertory Hymn:

"She's Royal"

Played by Chantel McKnight on Steel Pan

(Part proceeds in aid of the Raphaelita Walker Care Foundation)

## Blessing of the Offering:

Archbishop Deloris Seiveright

## Heritage Singers with Founder Grace Lyons - "Tribute in Song"

## Eulogy

Hamlin Grange

# MRS. RAPHAELITA WALKER

December 12, 1926 – February 14, 2017

## A Prayer from Raphaelita – a reading led by Olivia Grange-Walker

### A Prayer for Healing

Lord, You have told us to ask and we will receive  
To seek and we will find to knock and You will open the door to us  
I trust in Your love for me and in the healing power of Your compassion  
I praise You and thank You for the mercy You have shown to me

Lord, I am sorry for all my sins  
I ask for Your help in renouncing the sinful patterns of my life  
I accept with all my heart Your forgiving love  
And I ask for the grace to be aware  
Of the disorders that exist within myself

Let me not offend You by my weak human nature  
Or by my impatience, resentment or neglect  
Of people who are a part of my life  
Rather, teach me the gift of understanding and  
The ability to forgive, just as You continue to forgive me

I seek Your strength and Your peace so that I may become  
Your instrument in sharing those gifts with others  
Guide me in prayer that I might know what needs to be healed  
And how to ask You for that healing

It is You, Lord, Whom I seek Please enter the door of my heart  
And fill me with the presence of Your Spirit now and forever  
I thank You, Lord, for doing this

Amen

Olivia Grange



# *Order of Service*

**MRS. RAPHAELITA WALKER**  
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## Hymn:

Great is Thy Faithfulness, Oh God my father;  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;  
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be.

## Refrain

Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided,  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

## Homily:

**Prayer for the Family**

**Benediction**

**Recessional Hymn**

**Heritage Singers led by Founder Grace Lyon**

**Clergy**



## "Great is Thy Faithfulness"

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

## Repeat Refrain

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with then thousand beside!

## Repeat Refrain

Bishop Dr. Audley N. James

Pastor Curt Erb

Bishop Dr. Audley N. James

**"Fly Away Home"**



**MRS. RAPHAELITA WALKER**  
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## *Pall Bearers*

Casket is ushered from..

**CHURCH TO FOYER** (white gloved)

- Olivia Grange-Walker
- Paula Surtees
- Pauline Dickens
- Totlyn Douglas
- Atavia Surtees
- Ana Surtees
- Mitoya Surtees
- Enid Harrow

**CHURCH FOYER TO COACH**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Denzil Walker</li> <li>• Roy Walker</li> <li>• Carol Mills</li> <li>• Salvatore Malandrino</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hamlin Grange</li> <li>• Michael Douglas</li> <li>• Norman Vasceannie</li> <li>• Elijah Dickens</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

**COACH TO GRAVE**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Norman Vasceannie</li> <li>• Denzil Walker</li> <li>• Milton Wilson</li> <li>• Michael Davidson</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hamlin Grange</li> <li>• Carol Mills</li> <li>• Christopher Shackleford</li> <li>• Richard Bonnick</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

# Family

MRS. RAPHAELITA WALKER

December 12, 1926 - February 14, 2017







## MESSAGE *from*

The Most Honourable Andrew Michael Holness, ON, MP  
Prime Minister of Jamaica

We give God thanks for the life of Raphaelita Walker – Aunt Raph. Hers was a life well lived. From her years raising her daughter Babsy in the heart of the city on Bond Street in West Kingston, to her days in fashion design and dressmaking, to tending and nursing the sick in England and finally making her strong contribution in education and philanthropy in Canada, – aunt Raph’s impact has been felt not only in Jamaica but across the world. She helped the poor and needy and sat with those in high office. She was a daughter of Jamaica whom we loaned the world and in whom we are well pleased.

Her early years in Jamaica was the basis that shaped her life. In the 1950s and 60s she developed a love for service and a love for emulating one of her favourite persons, Sir Alexander Bustamante. Indeed, with her savvy personality and slender tall stature Aunt Raph would get into character and play her favourite public servant Bustamante – for her features were similar to Bustamante in so many ways. She would provide intrigue and humour for her family and friends who would admire her apt representation of Bustamante. She not only emulated Bustamante, she offered invaluable service in the trenches to organize and mobilise persons to take their civic responsibility keenly. She worked hard for Jamaica and for that we are grateful.

Aunt Raph, holds a special place in our hearts. For aunt Raph will be remembered as much for her big heart as she was for beauty and tenacity. Her life was one that exemplified courage, strength, determination and service. I am happy, she was recognized for her work while she lived, receiving several awards including the Prime Minister of Jamaica’s medal of appreciation for excellence and the 2013 African Canadian Achievement Awards of Excellence (ACAA).

My last encounter with aunt Raph was at the swearing in of her beloved daughter Babsy. When we saw each other we shared a warm embrace. She embraced me as if I were her own son. We smiled and took pictures. That warm embrace left with me an indelible memory of her that will not be erased.

Aunt Raph was woman of honour, a woman of strength. We salute you. We thank you for the privilege of knowing you and the benefit of watching you serve. A grateful nation thanks you. Your 90 years were well lived.

May your soul rest with the angels and light perpetually shine on you.

We remember her daughter Babsy, her many adopted children, granddaughter Paula other grandchildren, great grand and those mourning at this time. We pray the Lord God gives you all strength.

## MESSAGE *from*

The Most Honourable Portia Simpson Miller ON, MP  
**Leader of the Opposition**

It is with deep sadness I write to offer sincere condolences to the family and friends of Mrs. Raphaelita Walker, who left us notably on Valentine's Day to be with the Lord.

For those who may not know, 'Aunt Raph' and I had a relationship like any mother and daughter. She was a real person in every sense and the words 'Love you' followed by her infectious smile, symbolized Aunt Raph. She was a lady and a mother.

I have no doubt that her work and worth as a woman have had a profound positive impact on my life, even to this day.

I know her daughter Babsy, a dear friend of mine, and who is like a sister and the rest of the family are going through a very difficult period at this time. But we all can rest assured that Aunt Raph's spirit will remain forever with us.

Through our many conversations, there are some important lessons that Aunt Raph has left with me and for those, I am grateful.

Through her work in the Canadian Diaspora her legacy is intact.

Aunt Raph will be missed. She has touched so many people, her loss is felt by many.



## MESSAGE *from*

The Most Honourable Edward PG Seaga, ON, PC  
on the occasion of the passing of  
**Mrs. Raphaelita Walker**

We are all saddened to hear of the passing of Mrs. Raphaelita Walker, affectionately known as Aunt Raph. 'Aunt Raph' was a wonderful woman and mother who believed in volunteerism and service to her fellowmen. Her life embodied the belief and faith in a superior being and belief in the goodness of her humanity.

Mrs Walker enjoyed life and loved children. That may have been the reason she and her husband became the first black Santa and Mrs. Claus in the greater Toronto area and continued to bring cheer to children who lived in the area for over forty (40) years.

The words 'love you' and the accompanying genuine smile spoke volumes about the integrity of the woman. As a founding member of the Jamaican Canadian Association and a lifetime member of PACE Canada, she took the best of the Jamaican lifestyle and culture to Canada and handed it out with warmth and love.

We shall not forget the smiles, laughter, and friendship that Aunt Raph has left printed on the sands of time.

I wish for the family God's strength and peace throughout this time of bereavement. May fond memories of her life console your heart and mind.

Edward Seaga



## *Special thanks to:*

- Consulate General of Jamaica in Toronto
- Jamaican Canadian Association
- Buds in Bloom Floral Shop
- P.A.C.E (Canada)
- Revivaltime Tabernacle
- Immanuel Baptist Church
- Toronto Police Escort Services
- Share Newspaper
- Heritage Singers with Founder Grace Lyons

## *Acknowledgments*

The family of the late Raphaelita Walker wish to express their sincere appreciation to relatives, friends and well-wishers for their kind expressions of sympathy during this time of bereavement. Your prayers and thoughtfulness will always be remembered.

Heartfelt appreciation to the following persons, whose unwavering support and assistance has been a blessing to our family:-

Doctors and Nurses of the North York General Hospital with special thanks to Dr Leung, Dr Tina Parassakes, Dr. Hanna, Dr. Zuckerman and Dr. J Yu (Oncologist), Nurses Cynthia Batacan and Chona Lacka (Paramed) and PSW - Emily Mendoza of Spectrum Health Care, Dr. Pamela Appelt, Enid Harrow, Simone Thomas, Audrey Campbell, Richard Bonnick, Flo Brown, Totlyn Douglas, Atavia Surtees, Derrick McIntosh, Pauline Dickens, Eunice Graham, Ned Blair, Letna Allen-Rowe, Charmaine Sewell, Vivienne Nelson, Janice Grant, Natasha Douglas, Kendra Douglas, Ron Fanfair, Gladstone Davis, Gifford Williams, Delano McFarlane, Sheree Clarke, Dr. Japheth Ford, Dr. Jephthah Ford, Durken & Andre Grange and Janice Grant

